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FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

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Australia

PRESSURE HYDROMETALLURGY APPLIED TO LOW-GRADE ORES

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The majority of hydrometallurgical processes are done at atmospheric pressure and temperature, but it is desirable with some ores to use higher temperatures and pressures greater than atmospheric in order to achieve the best results.

Advantages of this specialised approach include faster reactions and products different from those obtained under ordinary conditions. It is also possible to obtain selective recovery of valuable materials or selective hydrolysis of impurities by judicious control of the operating conditions.

Examples are given to illustrate current and potential applications of pressure hydrometallurgy with special reference to low-grade ores.

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